STATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD Division of Water Rights

P.O. BOX 2000 SACRAMENTO, CA 95812-2000 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 (916) 322-4503

(916) 657-1875

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF WATER DIVERSION AND USE

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GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO WATER RIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA

There are two principal types of surface water rights in California. They are riparian and appropriative rights.

A riparian right enables an owner of land bordering a natural lake or stream to take and use water on his riparian land. Riparian land must be in the same watershed as the water source and must never have been severed from the source of supply by an intervening parcel without reservation of the riparian right to the severed parcel. Generally, a riparian water user must share the water supply with other riparian users. Riparian rights may be used to divert the natural flow of a stream but may not be used to store water for later use or to divert water which originates in a different watershed, or return flows from use of groundwater.

An appropriative right is required for use of water on nonriparian land and for storage of water. Generally, appropriative rights hay be exercised only when there is a surplus not needed by riparian water users. Since 1914 new appropriators have been required to obtain a permit and license from the State.

Statements of Water Diversion and Use must be filed by riparian and pre-1914 appropriative water users. The filing of a statement (1) provides a record of water use, (2) enables the State to notify such users if someone proposes a new appropriation upstream from their diversion, and (3) assists the State to determine if additional water is available for future appropriators.

The above discussion is provided for general information. For more specific information concerning water rights, please contact an attorney or write to this office. We have several pamphlets available. They include

"Statements of Water Diversion and Use"
"Information Pertaining to Water Rights in California"
"Water Rights for Stockponds Constructed Prior to 1969"
"Appropriation of Water in California"